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SECURITY INFORMATION

11 September 1952

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WESTERN EUROPE

1. Italy seeks participation in Greek-Turkish-Yugoslav defense planning: At a recent meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the Italian representative made clear that his government considers that any coordination of defense arrangements involving Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia is a NATO problem and would therefore be incomplete without Italy's participation.

Italy, he said, also hoped that the Western powers would not do or say anything to stiffen the Yugoslav position regarding Trieste. Yugoslav intransigence on this issue would prevent any rapprochement with Italy and consequently prejudice defense coordination in the Mediterranean. (TS Paris POLTO 261, 4 Sept 52)

Comment: Italy's attitude, which had previously manifested itself in the form of strong reaction to the planned joint Greek-Yugoslav naval maneuvers, is stiffening because of the government's awareness of its declining popularity at home and its need for regaining public support before the 1953 elections.

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